

telegram had been worked out, and the text of the telegram was submitted to the Secretariat in time. But there have been no meetings. Inkpin has left and probably he either has sent the telegram already or will send it one of these days.

I realise that every document should be issued by the highest organs of the ECCI and that in this a mistake was made but at the same time I have listed a whole number of circumstances which, no doubt, mitigate the mistake of the Anglo-American Secretariat.

We have sent by telegraph political suggestions which are very important for the congress of the South African Party and which had been discussed and adopted by the ECCI. Although the resolution which was adopted in summer generally contained them as a whole, in present circumstances they need to be specifically stressed and strongly recommended to the Party congress.

Demar.⁵
~~~~~

RGASPI, 495/64/61/54-6.

Original in Russian.

Typed.

Stamped: No. 1352 - 9 JAN 1928

Inscription: O.F./3 cop.

24-XII-27

(typed)

## 52

### Report of Activities, Anglo-American Secretariat, ECCI, [late 1927 or early 1928] (Extract)<sup>1</sup>

[...]

#### SOUTH AFRICA

Concerning South Africa we have handed in a very short report. The most important achievement of the Comintern in regard to the small South African Party<sup>2</sup> is that it has put forward a slogan of independent native republic and directed the attention of the Com. Party more towards the natives. There has

#### Doc. 51

5. Signature in English.

#### Doc. 52

1. The date is established on the basis of the contents of the document.
2. The Communist Party of South Africa.

been an appreciable opposition towards this line in the Communist Party of South Africa. This opposition has hardly been overcome completely. At the same time the new tactical line has been implemented, and it brings very good results that have been stressed at the last two pages (5 and 6) of our short report.

It is necessary to add that in the last several years we have been maintaining close and direct contact with the South African Communist Party.

[...]

RGASPI, 495/72/25/242.

Original in Russian.

Typed.

## 53

### Letter from J. La Guma to V. Demar, 10 January 1928

62, Hanover St.,

Cape Town,

10.1.28.

Dear Comrade Victor,

This is to inform you that I arrived back in Cape Town safely after an uneventful voyage. We attended the General Council of the League against Imperialism at Brussels and there I parted with Gumede.

With regard to the Party affairs here I am very much afraid that the recent thesis submitted by the ECCI to the South African Party is going to mean a split on colour lines again or prove very strong purgative.

Since my arrival in Cape Town we have had very hot arguments on the thesis supported by the entire black membership. It seems that at the Congress of the Party there has been more of a colour division than anything else on the question of adoption of the thesis or rejection. The European comrades who spoke against it advanced the same bankrupt arguments as embodied in the letter I read to the Anglo-American Secretariat; but nothing of a constructive nature was put forward. I am given to understand from Comrade Gomas who was one of the delegates from the Cape Town Branch to the Congress, that the thesis has been referred back to the newly elected Central Executive (the personnel of which is practically the same) for discussion with Gumede and myself on our return from Europe. I am therefore waiting in Cape Town for Gumede and will accompany him to Johannesburg to fight for the adoption by the Party of the thesis as submitted, since in the opinion of the non-European comrades it is what is required by us. Good progress has been made amongst the natives this last year according to the report of the CE considering



everything, better progress than amongst the whites. I am forwarding interesting cuttings from the local paper dealing with the white workers attitude towards the question of cooperation with the blacks. It is exactly as I predicted in my report to the Anglo-American Secretariat. There is absolutely nothing to be expected from that quarter. In spite of this the European members of our Party do not consider it 'practical politics' as they call it, to launch even a National Revolutionary movement amongst the blacks until such time as our lords and masters, the white worker, bestows his blessing upon us.

This attitude of the Europeans is creating distrust in the minds of our non-European comrades. It will perhaps interest you to know that during one of the 'peppy' arguments I mentioned, the question arose as to what would happen if the Party rejected the thesis and it was subsequently adopted by the National Congress<sup>1</sup> and Communist such as myself for instance worked for it within the National movement. The reply by a prominent European comrade was that I would be expelled from the Party. So you will no doubt follow that if a compromise is not arrived at it will mean a colour split in the Party. I for one am not afraid of it being very optimistic of the Party gaining a strong foothold amongst the non-European masses providing it is able to win the confidence of the non-Europeans.

I would be very pleased indeed if you would give me advice as early as possible what course to pursue should the thesis be rejected by the C.E. The non-Europeans including myself, a few Europeans as far as I know, all feel that it is the correct one. We have no desire to split the Party. But you will understand that we have a keen desire and the strong determination to emancipate ourselves from these chains of bondage that we have so long endured. And in our opinion the way to that emancipation lies through the earnest propagation of the slogan of a free and independent native republic, steps towards a workers and peasants Republic, with full safeguards for national minorities. We feel that it is our due and will work for it.

Hoping to hear from you quickly, with best wishes and revolutionary greetings to all the comrades. I have the honour to be,

Yours for the World Revolution,  
LaGuma.

RGASPI, 495/64/77/4-5.

Original in English.

Typed. Copy.

Inscription: To Petrovsky  
~~~~~

(in Russian)

1. The ANC.

54

**Letter from D. Petrovsky to J. La Guma,
15 February 1928**

February 15, 1928.

Mr. Laguma,
62, Hanover Street,
CAPE TOWN.
South Africa.

Dear Laguma,

Victor¹ has shown me your letter dated January 10. It is a pity that we have no concrete information about the stand of your colleagues on the question you raise. I will write to them today, but I want to impress upon you as strongly as I can that it would be the greatest mistake to raise at the moment the question about breaking the company.² Everything must be done in order that our point of view be accepted by all our colleagues.

Yours,
A. Bennett.
~~~~~

RGASPI, 495/64/77/3.

Original in English.

Typed. Copy.

Stamped: 622 - 16.FEB.1928

55

**Letter from D. Petrovsky to CPSA,  
15 February 1928.**

February 15, 1928.

PO Box 4179,  
JOHANNESBURG,  
South Africa.

Dear Comrades,

We have received information that there is great <sup>disagreement</sup> about our thesis concerning the question about the Native Republic. It is a great pity we have

1. Victor Demar.

2. Obviously, the Party.